

What is claimed is:

1. A pedestrian collision detecting apparatus for a vehicle comprising:

5 a collision duration determining circuit working to determine a collision duration for which an object is being hit by a vehicle after collision of the vehicle with the object;

a collision condition monitoring circuit working to monitor a change in number of locations of collisions of the vehicle with objects  
10 in a lateral direction of the vehicle; and

a pedestrian-vehicle collision decision circuit working to decide that the object being hit by the vehicle is a pedestrian when the collision duration is smaller than a given threshold value and when the change in number of the locations of the collisions is  
15 detected by said collision condition monitoring circuit.

2. A pedestrian collision detecting apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said collision condition monitoring circuit works to monitor the change in the number of the locations arising from a fact  
20 that one of legs of a pedestrian has struck up by the vehicle.

3. A pedestrian collision detecting apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a speed sensor which measures a speed of the vehicle, and wherein said pedestrian-vehicle collision decision  
25 circuit works to collect one of the collision duration and the given threshold value as a function of the speed of the vehicle.

4. A pedestrian collision detecting apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said collision condition monitoring circuit includes a line sensor equipped with a plurality of conductive lines which  
5 extend at a given interval away from each other and make a contact therebetween upon application of a physical impact with an object and a detector circuit working to detect occurrence and a location of collision with the object based on a change in electric parameter associated with impedance between the conductive lines.

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5. A pedestrian collision detecting apparatus as set forth in claim 4, wherein the number of the conductive lines is two, wherein one of the conductive lines is connected at an end thereof to a first impedance element and at the other end to a second impedance  
15 element, wherein a voltage is applied across the conductive lines through the first and second impedance elements, and wherein said collision condition monitoring circuit works to monitor the change in the number of the locations arising from a fact that one of legs of a pedestrian has struck up by the vehicle based on voltage drops  
20 across the first and second impedance elements.